

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

August 26, 2019

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

January 8, 2020 to March 17, 2020

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS

NOVEMBER 25, 2019

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS

JUNE 16, 2020

**PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.**

**Augusta, Maine
2020**

CHAPTER 17

S.P. 723 - L.D. 2050

**An Act To Establish the
Central Aroostook County
Emergency Medical Services
Authority**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, beginning in April 2020, Mars Hill, Bridgewater and Blaine will be without emergency medical services; and

Whereas, this situation places the entire population of those towns at enormous risk; and

Whereas, it is imperative that this situation be rectified immediately; and

Whereas, in order to secure emergency medical services for Mars Hill, Bridgewater and Blaine it is necessary to create a quasi-municipal corporation to provide such services; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. Establishment. The Central Aroostook County Emergency Medical Services Authority, referred to in this Act as "the authority," is established to facilitate the provision of emergency medical services to the citizens of Mars Hill, Bridgewater and Blaine.

Sec. 2. Board of directors. The authority is governed by a board of directors, referred to in this Act as "the board." The board consists of 9 members:

1. Three from Mars Hill, selected by its municipal officers;
2. Three from Bridgewater, selected by its municipal officers; and
3. Three from Blaine, selected by its municipal officers.

For the purposes of this section, "municipal officers" has the same meaning as in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 2001, subsection 10.

The members of the board are appointed for terms of 2 years, except that one of the initial members from each municipality is appointed for a term of 3 years. The members may be reappointed at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

Sec. 3. Powers. The authority may:

1. Employ and compensate personnel, consultants, technical and professional assistants and an emergency medical services medical director;
2. Make and enter into contracts and agreements and, pursuant to the bylaws of the authority, purchase or lease all vehicles and equipment necessary to provide emergency medical services to members;
3. Hold public hearings and sponsor public forums;
4. Sue and be sued in its own name;
5. Accept funds, grants and services from federal, state, county and municipal governments or any agency thereof, gifts and stipends from its member towns and private gifts from individuals and entities; and
6. Apply for and accept loans and allocate and disburse funds received to carry out the purposes of the authority.

Debts of the authority authorized under this Act do not constitute or create any debt or liability on behalf of the State. Debts incurred under this Act do not directly, indirectly or contingently obligate the State to levy or to pledge any form of taxation or to make any appropriation for their payment. This section may not be construed to prevent the authority from pledging its full faith and credit to the payment of loans or other debts authorized pursuant to this Act.

Sec. 4. Duties. The authority shall:

1. Prepare an annual budget and require an annual audit that is made available for public inspection;
2. Follow uniform standards provided in the Maine Revised Statutes insofar as they relate to Department of Public Safety rules;
3. Make provisions for emergency medical services in Mars Hill, Bridgewater and Blaine and, on a contract basis, other areas where new services are to be provided; however, where emergency medical services are already provided by existing services, they are not abolished by this Act without the express consent of the governing body of the area where services are being provided and vote of the existing medical services' board;
4. Implement a subscription membership program unless otherwise prohibited by law; and
5. Set and annually adjust an approved cost-basis schedule that is uniform throughout Mars Hill, Bridgewater and Blaine.

Sec. 5. Organization; conduct of business. The board must be organized and its business must be conducted in accordance with the following.

1. The board shall elect a chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer from among its members.

2. The secretary shall keep a record of the board's meetings. These records are public records as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 402, subsection 3.

3. The treasurer shall keep records of the board's transactions. These records are public records as defined in Title 1, section 402, subsection 3.

4. The treasurer must be bonded in an amount to be determined by the board.

5. A quorum of the board is established in the bylaws of the authority and must include the chair or vice-chair and the secretary or treasurer of the board.

6. The board shall adopt such bylaws and mission statements as are necessary for the legal operation and proper management of the authority.

Sec. 6. Meetings. The bylaws must establish the annual meeting of the board. Additional meetings may be scheduled at the call of the chair or at the written request of any 5 members of the board.

A member who fails to attend board meetings 5 consecutive times may be replaced by the appointing authority. Notification of such absences from the secretary of the board to the appointing authority is sufficient to trigger the appointment of a replacement board member by the appointing authority.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

Effective February 29, 2020.

**CHAPTER 18
H.P. 341 - L.D. 432**

**An Act To Amend the Greater
Augusta Utility District
Charter**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. P&SL 2007, c. 22, Pt. A, §12 is amended to read:

Sec. A-12. Additional methods of collection of wastewater assessments. If assessments under the provisions of section 9 are not paid and the district does not proceed to collect unpaid assessments by a sheriff's sale of the real estate upon which the assessments are made under section 11 or does not collect or is in any manner delayed or defeated in collecting the assessments by a sheriff's sale of the real estate under section 11, then the district, in the name of the district, may maintain an action against the party assessed for the amount of the assessment, for money paid, laid out and expended, in any court competent to try the suit,

and in the suit may recover the amount of the assessment with 10% interest on the assessments from the date of the assessments and costs. In addition to the lien for unpaid wastewater assessments in section 11 and suits for collection described in this section, the district is authorized to disconnect water service for the non-payment of wastewater charges, inclusive of sewer and stormwater drain charges, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 6111-C.

Sec. 2. P&SL 2007, c. 22, Pt. A, §19, sub-§1, first ¶ is amended to read:

1. All the affairs of the Greater Augusta Utility District are managed by a Board of Trustees comprised of 7 voting members, one nonvoting representative of the City of Augusta and one nonvoting representative of the City of Hallowell. The nonvoting representative of the City of Hallowell may vote in the absence of the voting representative of the City of Hallowell. Six voting members are appointed by the mayor of the City of Augusta, with the approval of a majority of the Augusta City Council. One voting member is appointed by the mayor of the City of Hallowell, with the approval of a majority of the Hallowell City Council. One nonvoting member must be the mayor of the City of Augusta or the mayor's designee, and the other nonvoting member must be the mayor of the City of Hallowell or the mayor's designee.

See title page for effective date.
